

Joyce found herself in a situation many Americans are facing all too often. She lost her job of over three years.

Suddenly, she was forced into the welfare system and nearly became homeless because she got behind on her rent. Her self-esteem began to plummet, which led to drinking and drug abuse. She voluntarily entered into a treatment program and sought assistance from community programs to aid her battle with addiction.



Months later, and after successfully working through her addiction, she contacted Darlene Wheeler, a Placement Services Specialist. Her welfare benefits were going to be cut off in a few months. Her Self-Sufficiency Coach, through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, referred her to VGS and she was placed in the Transitional Jobs Program in March 2006. She completed the VGS Food Service Training Program and received a Certificate of Completion. Her passions would lead her to pursue a job in the food industry. “Joyce came back with a stronger sense of determination than before,” said Ms Wheeler. She reported everyday as scheduled and strived to get at least three job leads a day.

The Director of Food Services was in need of additional people to work at The Guidance Grill, a cafeteria style food setting at VGS. However, the work was only on an “as-needed” basis. She decided it was a start and that she would still pursue other opportunities while working. In the meantime, St. Ignatius High School and Eliza Bryant were looking for people to fill several positions that fit Joyce’s qualifications. There was no response at first. So she called daily and finally landed an interview with the Directors of both establishments.

After incredible persistence and determination, Joyce now has three jobs! “Everyone has been so helpful. When I needed someone to talk to and sit down and confide in, they were there,” Joyce said with the biggest smile on her face. She is an inspiration and a true testimony to how a great attitude and hard work can bring success. Great job, Joyce!